

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 06508 180911Z

13

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W
----- 078439

R 171635Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

J/CINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL GUATEMALA 6508

TEGUCIGALPA ALSO FOR SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, ECIN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S VIEWS ON CENTRAL AMERICAN
POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, DURING CALL BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHLAUDEMAN AND CHARGE, DISCUSSED SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

2. NEW DRAFT INTEGRATION TREATY OF SIECA SOUGHT TO
EQUALIZE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES,
WITH RESULT THAT GUATEMALA WHICH HAD STRONGEST INDUSTRIAL
AND AGRICULTURAL BASE, AND LARGEST FOREIGN EXCHANGE
RESERVES, WAS BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR HONDURAS
AND NICARAGUA. PARTICULARLY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES OF LONG RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD AFTER EARTH-
QUAKE, THIS WAS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR POLITICALLY
ACCEPTABLE FOR GUATEMALA. FURTHER WORK ON DRAFT
TREATY WAS NECESSARY LAUGERUD FELT. HE PLANNED CALL
MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS SOON, PROBABLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GUATEM 06508 180911Z

IN OCTOBER, TO CONSIDER WHOLE QUESTION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN

INTEGRATION.

3. PRESIDENT STATED THAT PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION HAD BEEN STYMIED EVER SINCE THE "SOCCER WAR" BETWEEN HONDURAS AND SALVADOR AND THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN SO UNTIL THERE WAS A SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE CONTINUED THAT GOG HAD BEEN CONCERNED BY THE RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND HAD USED ITS GOOD OFFICES TO BRING THE CHIEFS OF STATE AND CHIEFS OF STAFF OF ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES TOGETHER TO BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE SUPERVISED BY MILITARY OBSERVERS FROM THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES NOT INVOLVED.

4. PRESIDENT WAS WORRIED HOWEVER THAT RECENT AND CURRENT ACQUISITION OF MODERN WEAPONRY BY BOTH HONDURAS AND SALVADOR WAS NOT ONLY POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IN TERMS OF INCREASING THE RISK OF OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT WAS ALSO DESTABILIZING TO THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL BALANCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. BECAUSE OF THESE ARMS PURCHASES, PRESIDENT STATED HONDURAS WAS NOW THE STRONGEST MILITARY POWER IN CENTRAL AMERICA, FOLLOWED BY SALVADOR, WITH GUATEMALA AND NICARAGUA FOLLOWING.

5. FACED WITH THE DETERIORATION IN GUATEMALA'S RELATIVE MILITARY STRENGTH VIS-A-VIS HONDURAS AND SALVADOR, SOME OF THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY HAD BEEN PRESSING HIM (LAUGERUD) TO ACQUIRE F-5 SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT. PRESIDENT HAD RESISTED SUCH PRESSURE, FEELING THAT GUATEMALAN PEOPLE WHO WERE JUST BEGINNING TO RECONER FROM THE MOST IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND WHO STILL HAD A LONG PATH AHEAD OF THEM ON RECONSTRUCTION, WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE MAJOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR SUCH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY. SHLAUDEMAN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF AND SUPPORT FOR THIS VIEW.
ANDREWS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM06508
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0262
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760950/aaaabqjs.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S VIEWS ON CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, GT, (LAUGERUD GARCIA, KJELL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006